

REMARKS

It is believed that the within amendments clearly place this application in condition for allowance.

Claim 10 has been cancelled. New Claim 14 has been added.

Claims 1 and 14 are the only independent claims under consideration. Claim 14 corresponds closely to claim 1, but positively includes the lamp as an element. The amendments made to claim 1 (and found also in new claim 14) emphasize the clear patentable distinctions between the claimed invention and the Sawada et al. patent cited as a reference.

The Sawada et al. patent makes it absolutely clear that for each of the contact clips, one element of the clip engages a groove in the glass bulb, to fix the position of the bulb, and the other element of the clip, which is of clearly different structure, serves only to engage the contact and provide electrical continuity. See column 2, lines 2-7. Also see column 2, lines 14-21.

"The base portion of the wedge-base bulb, inserted into the bulb socket, is held between the pair of holder pieces, and the connecting projection, formed on the one holder piece, is held against the lead wire, laid on the base portion, and hence is electrically connected thereto, whereas the retaining projection, formed on the other holder piece, is engaged in the retaining groove formed in the base portion, thereby retaining the bulb against withdrawal."

The above is also true of the Fig. 4 embodiment of Sawada et al., referred to by the Examiner. See column 4, lines 33-43.

See also the single claim of Sawada et al. which specifies that "a retaining projection is formed on one of said pair of holder pieces" and "connecting projections...formed on the other holder piece...that make an electrical connection".

It is thus clear that the Sawada et al device relies upon a retaining groove in the glass structure of the bulb for retaining the bulb in position, using one element of a clip for that purpose and the other element for electrical connection.

Applicant's amended claim 1 and new claim 14 specify that each of the contact clips has on opposed sidewalls thereof, opposed inwardly protuberant retention elements positioned to lie closely above and closely below planar portions of each of the strip-like contact elements (of the lamp) to hold the lamp in position "by engagement of said strip-like contact elements by said contact clips". It is also specified that the strip-like contact elements of the lamp are oriented generally at right angles to the sidewalls of the contact clips.

All of the above emphasized language is distinct in all ways from the Sawada et al. patent, in which the clips position the bulb by engagement of one (only) element of each pair with a groove in the glass bulb. The other element of

each pair merely engages the contact for electrical purposes. The applicant's claims specify that the lamp is held by engagement of the contact clips with contact elements – period. This is directly contrary to Sawada et al.

Regarding claim 2, the Examiner will note that the elements 38, 39 of Sawada et al. (Fig. 4), do not (and indeed cannot) engage the retention groove 14 of the bulb. Their purpose and function (and structure) is to engage the contact element 13.

Regarding claim 4, as amended it specifies that the first (upper) retention elements project inward over "upwardly facing surfaces of the planar contact portions after plug-in insertion". In Ruehleman, the projections merely frictionally engage lateral surfaces of a contact (i.e., a pin or an edge of a circuit board) in sliding friction. The upper projections obviously cannot project over an upwardly facing surface of the contact. Additionally, applicant's claim 4 must be taken in the context of its parent claim 1, which calls for a spaced-apart pair of contact clips, with each being provided with the indicated retention elements.

With respect to claim 11, as now amended it calls for the socket body to be configured to mount a lamp in a "predetermined rotational orientation relative to the socket body". This is structurally different from Fielding, which employs a common screw-in socket, such that bulbs would inherently end up with a somewhat random rotational orientation relative to the socket. The structure of

claim 11 is advantageous for use with a lamp having an oriented output beam, in that the socket body can be rotated to properly align the oriented output beam of the lamp.

With respect to the ability to use Fielding without a ridged base, this would be contrary to the Fielding disclosure:

“One of the features of my invention is the means for holding the base firmly to its support with a single central screw or bolt to prevent its turning when a twisting force is applied, as happens when the lamp is screwed into the socket.” (Pg. 1, lines 75-80)

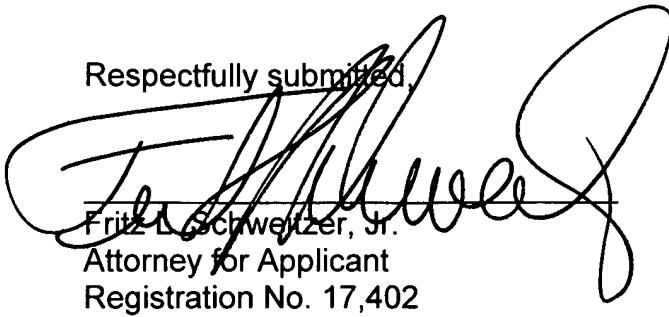
Moreover, it is noted that the conductors must pass through the body of the Fielding socket so that, once installed by the screw S, rotation would be firmly resisted by the spaced-apart conductors, and forcible rotation probably would damage either the socket or the conductors, or both. Thus, Fielding does not in any way disclose a structure capable of providing rotational orientation of a lamp having an oriented output beam.

It is believed that the within amendments clearly place this application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the application is solicited.

Applicant's invention is a remarkable device for use in connection with commercial and theatrical lighting, enabling two of the most popular forms of lamps, having a highly diverse contact structure, to be alternatively mounted in a

single socket, with a one-hand plug-in action. There has been nothing like this available to the trade prior to the applicant's invention.

Respectfully submitted,


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being sent via telefax to Examiner Felix O. Figueira at 703-872-9306, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

Date: September 24, 2004


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